

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 EURE-00 /104 W

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P R 061600Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 488

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4418

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT YO UR

SUBJECT: MORE ON ARREST OF MOSCOW-ORIENTED STALINISTS

REF: (A) BELGRADE 4272; (B) BELGRADE 3411; BELGRADE 4305

1. RESIDENT WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT DUSKO DODER PLANS TO FILE STORY IN NEXT FEW DAYS DETAILING ALLEGED ARREST IN MONTENEGRO OF SOME FORTY PERSONS ACCUSED OF ORGANIZING CLANDESTINE COMMUNIST PARTY ADVOCATING YUGOSLAV RETURN TO SOVIET BLOC. ARTICLE WILL ALLEGE ARREST ALSO OF UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF SERBS IN KOSOVO.

2. ACCORDING DODER'S INFORMATION, GROUP IN QUESTION HAD CONTACT WITH WARSAW PACT EMBASSIES IN BELGRADE, AND GOY HAS PROTESTED TO GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED. HE ALSO SAYS CURRENT TRIP OF LCY AND STATE PRESIDENCY MEMBER EDVARD KARDELJ TO USSR IS TO SEEK SOVIET CLARIFICATION OF INTENTIONS. YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES, ACCORDING TO DODER'S SOURCE, DO NOT BELIEVE THEY HAVE DISCOVERED TOP OFFICIALS IN CLANDESTINE GROUP. MOST OF ARRESTED ARE SAID TO BE INTELLECTUALS WHO HAVE MAINTAINED CONTACTS WITH PRO-SOVIET YUGOSLAVS RESIDENT IN BELGIUM.

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3. GROUP SUPPOSEDLY HELD "CONGRESS" EARLIER THIS YEAR IN BAR, MONTENEGRO, WHERE IT ELECTED CENTRAL COMMITTEE. REASON FOR NO PUBLICITY TO DATE IS SUPPOSEDLY BECAUSE YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP IS WAITING TO SEE RESULT OF KARDELJ'S MOSCOW TALKS.

4. ADDRESSEES SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT DISCUSS INFORMATION WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES UNTIL DODER STORY IS PUBLISHED. THIS MAY BE DELAYED BECAUSE DODER IS SEEKING APPOINTMENT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT TO TRY TO ELECIT COMMENT ON HOW THIS AFFECTS RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND OTHER WP COUNTRIES.

5. EMBASSY WILL APPRECIATE TELEGRAPHIC ADVICE WHEN STORY APPEARS IN WASHINGTON POST.

6. COMMENT: DODER DECLINED TO REVEAL SOURCE HIS INFORMATION, BUT DESCRIBED HIM AS FORMER MEMBER OF HEIRARCHY WHO NOW OUT.

7. AS FOR KARDELJ TRIP, ALLEGATION HE HAS GONE TO MOSCOW SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE OF DISCOVERY OF MOSCOW-ORIENTED GROUP, WHILE POSSIBLY TRUE, SOUNDS SPECULATIVE. THERE HAS BEEN NO DEARTH OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES TO DISCUSS SUCH A MATTER WITH THE SOVIETS OF LATE, I.E., LCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ALEKSANDAR GRILICKOV WAS REPORTED IN MOSCOW TO DISCUSS PARTY COOPERATION ON AUG 17; THE YUGOSLAV CHARGE IN MOSCOW WAS RECEIVED BY THE SOVIET MINISTER OF JUSTICE ON AUG 28 TO DISCUSS "CURRENT QUESTIONS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION"; AND MONTENEGRIN LC PRESIDUM PRESIDENT VESELIN DJURANOVIC WAS REPORTED MEETING AUG 30 IN MOSCOW WITH NIKOLAI VAIL'YEV, WHO WAS IDENTIFIED FIRST AS CPSU CC MEMBER AND SECOND IN RSFSR POST. IN ADDITION, CPSU POLITBURO MESSAGE TO TITO WAS DELIVERED IN BELGRADE AUG 19. FRG AMBASSADOR HERE UNDERSTANDS A PRIME REASON FOR KARDELJ TRIP IS TO DISCUSS REPORTED UPCOMING PREPARATORY MEETING FOR ALL EUROPEAN CP CONFERENCE. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba2
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELGRA04418
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740248-0085
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740970/aaaachfb.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) BELGRADE 4272; (B) BELGRADE 3411, ; BELGRADE 4305
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba2
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08 JUN 2005 by powellba2>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE ON ARREST OF MOSCOW-ORIENTED STALINISTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, YO, UR, (PETREANU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005